
The development of modern English

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Abstract: *The aim of this paper is to present the morphological productivity of the Anglo-Saxon linguistics. In order to attain this objective, we intend to present first, a series of theoretical concepts about the lexical creativity in the sense of defining the phenomenon and identifying its forms of manifestation, all oriented towards the description of its effects on the general vocabulary of the language, and, therefore, towards the theoretical studies concerning the modernization of the languages, or, further more, to the formation, development and enrichment of some terminology and stylistic means of expression.*

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JEL Classification: Z 11

Introduction

Words have the primordial role in the transmission of information, ideas, and scientific, philosophical or artistical knowledge. Because without them the history, culture and science would'n anymore be, - the first requirement of our concerns was trying to choose the best definition of the word, about which Henri Delacroix considered that "*it committed the whole system of values which sets within the language*" (Delacroix, 1923). In this regard, we intend to follow the views expressed by some of the world's most famous linguists such as Edward Sapir, Karl Brugmann, Kenneth L. Pike.

The process of development of modern English

Even if the remarkable French linguist Charles Bally (1865-1947) said that "*the notion of word is considered generally clear*", - although, in the same time,- this notion should be "*really one of the most ambiguous ever meet in linguistic*"¹, - the reality proves, til nowadays, that linguists does not come to agree on a single, complete definition of *the word*.

¹ *Linguistique générale et linguistique française. Quatrième édition revue et corrigée*, Paris, 1963, p. 287.

As a result, we find that the need to define the word was and will always remain governed by the different perspectives from which linguists approach this theme.

Instead, despite this apparent contradiction, all linguists agree that the basic unit of vocabulary is the word, - which, at the lexical level, - being linked with the notion, - has a double value: that one of *invariant* and that one of *variant* or "*unit of name*". As a result, the modern linguistics accepted, also, the identification of the word with the notion of *lexeme* as '*invariant*', and that one of *alolexem* as '*version*', settling in this way, also, the intrinsic relationship between words and vocabulary, or between words and lexical items contained in dictionaries. To get the relationship word - word title within dictionary, - it was necessary, - first, to synthesize the perspectives from which the word is approached in the modern linguistics, the more so as the approached directions were grouped around the ideas of two great linguists, Joseph Vendryes, - who believed that grammatical meanings of the words "*are in conjunction with logical concepts, but which are not in direct correlation with the objects from the objective reality*" (Vendryès, 1939), and Ruben Aleksandrovich Budagov, whose opinion was that lexical meanings "*are always in correlation with both of them*" (Budagov, 1961). Obviously, as a result of these contradictory debates, was generated the recognition of the existence of two fundamental aspects of the language, its lexical size and its grammatical size.

As such, it was necessary to underline some aspects concerning the situation in which the lexicon, or said in another way, - the words are contained in the explanatory etymological, historical, linguistic and encyclopedic dictionaries, etc., - which, according to the pre-established requirements, contain the entire known vocabulary or only a part of it.

In the American linguistics, the psychologist Gordon W. Allport was the one who, in 1937, had introduced the concept and the term of *creativity*, a substantivization, by the adjective's suffixation, from the adjective *creative* '*creative, creator*', derived, at its turn, from the verb *to create*, derived from the Latin *creare*, '*to create, to do, to build*'. Later, in the 1970s, the word was borrowed and it was imposed in all modern languages, sometimes even to the detriment of the local terms. In modern linguistics, *creativity* refers primarily to the generative aspect or to the productivity of the language.

As an implicit result, it is important the relationship between this concept and the generative grammar initiated by Noam Chomsky and how were held the subsequent discussions between linguists, being given the fact that, generally, the language and the lexical creativity can not be reduced only to the syntactic aspects. Thus, anticipating to some extent, the results of these confrontations, we also remember that Maurice Gross, analyzing the behavior of nearly three thousand verbs, in relation to a hundred morpho-syntactic properties, found that the French language is, like any other language, an infinite entity. Later, in the last decades of the last century, the problem of lexical creativity,- considered less important by the followers of the generative grammar, - who focused only on the three components of the combination rules (syntactic, phonological and semantic ones),- has generated, primarily, the interest of younger linguists who developed this area by publishing a number of studies.

A first observation would be that the English language preferred the syntagm of *morphological productivity*, which considers more adequate in order to suggest this important feature within the research of the words' formation. As a result of the growing number of linguistic contributions concerning the lexical creativity, it gave rise to a diversity of opinions on the usefulness and practical results of this process, it will require a review of the definitions proposed by specialists, definitions which follow, depending on the fundamental concerns of the authors, a number of issues such as: the possibility of forming new words, formed words' frequency, available bases number, the ratio between the actual used words and the number of words potentially created by a particular process, the number of new words which appear in a given period etc. To those reported above, we appreciate that the terms *creativity* and *productivity* can be considered synonymous with the term of *innovation (lexical)*, if the morphological productivity is considered to be the result of a morphologically process governed by certain rules, the lexical creativity can not be subjected to that government, because creativity, generally, represents a real necessity.

We will remember that when some new terms are necessary, they will be introduced within the vocabulary by loans from other languages, either by creating the existing elements in vocabulary, through the internal channels of the language, in full agreement with the idea expressed by the Romanian linguist Eugene Coșeriu who, starting from Aristotle and from Wilhelm von Humboldt, believes that the language should be seen in all its forms as a creative activity that occurs continuously (Coșeriu, 1999). Much more: in terms of linguistic creativity, Eugen Coșeriu realizes a clear distinction between the perspective offered by Wilhelm von Humboldt and Noam Chomsky's conception, which shows that the German scientist's intuition, - long before the American linguist, - that it can not be talked about producing phrases by the language's interlude, - but rather, about *producing of languages, by themselves*(Coșeriu, 1970).

Thus, we will notice that the morphological productivity is not a function of repetition, frequency and semantic coherence. In this respect, the linguists Laurie Bauer and Paul Nation confirm that there is, at least so far, a method clear, unambiguous, by which we determine the morphological (Bauer, Nation, 1993) productivity. The proposed definition of productivity by Laurie Bauer, - who believe that "*Productivity of a morphological process is its potential for repetitive non-creative morphological coining*" (Bauer, 2001), - places the morphological productivity between *availability* and *rentability*, ie the morphological productivity is available and profitable in some field of the terminology only if the grammar allows, - in the synchronous plan, - the formation of new words through that process. Moreover, this important distinction was proposed some years before, by Danielle Corbin also, who shared the processes of the morphological productivity in *available* „disponible” and *profitable* ”profitableness” (Corbin, 1987).

In order to exemplify this condition, which act in function of the principle „*all or nothing*”, we can quote any English verb which ends in *-ize* (eg, to realize) which can be substantivized only with the help of the suffix *-ation*, - and in any case, for example, with the suffix *-ment*, the premise being, that, in this situation, it is possible that the verb ended in *-ize* + the suffix *-ation* to create a new noun/substantive (*realization*), without being the possibility to create a new noun/substantive from the verb ended in *-ize* + suffix *-ment* (**realizement*).

As a result, it may be established that a process of morphological productivity is profitable only in the case that it allows the formation of new words respecting all linguistic and extralinguistic constraints specific to the grammar and to the system of the language.

The detailed analysis of some elements of a more or less theoretical nature is one which we consider necessary in order to foresee the importance of *the word* in its action of *lexical creativity*, because, by the vocabulary's enrichment, not only increases the number of lexical and grammatical units, but also it creates new semantic valences, the words being the ones carrying the mutation of meaning and continually proving a trend of modernization.

With regard to loans, we will remember and we will argue with relevant examples that the English language has adopted, till nowadays, words from more than 120 languages (Jackson, Ze Amvela, 2006), subjecting them to a process of phonetics, grammar and semantics adaptation. An interesting statistic regarding the most commonly used one thousand words of contemporary English, shows that only 17% of them were perpetuated in the so-called Old English (Old English) spoken between 700-1200, while 30% are of French origin, 29% Latino, 1.7% of Scandinavian origin, 1.3% of mixed origin, 0.7% and 0.3% uncertain origin of German and Dutch (Robertson, 2002).

On the other hand, in terms of lexical calque, we will remember that this is a typical process of vocabulary's enrichment, process used since the most ancient times. Thus, linguists have determined that a series of Latin words and expressions calque words and expressions from the ancient Greek, the best example is probably wide: the latin *compassio* 'suffering with' with the Greek *sympathia* 'suffering together'. In any case, the study of the calques can be problematic in situations where the researcher must determine if it is indeed about an opportunity of calque or about a pure coincidence, respectively about a compound word or an expression appeared independently in two or more languages. In terms of English, it was found that this one calqued, along the time, both structures from other European languages (Latin, French, Spanish, German, Dutch, Greek and Russian), but also from Chinese.

Changes in language refers specifically to the usual vocabulary. Changes occur in the social life of the speakers cause the permanent change and transformation of that one, constituting the study subject of the modern linguistics, which demonstrated that, inevitably, "*the content* of a word reflects the ratio between the psycho-social level and the real world" (Bidu-Vrănceanu, Călărășu, Ionescu-Ruxăndoiu, Mancaș, Pană Dindelegan, 2001). Therefore, the number of words of a language is never fixed/invariable, and can not be accurately determined.

Conclusion

During its existence, the language is therefore constantly enriched with new lexical elements, created within it, either by its own means of enriching the vocabulary, either with words borrowed from other languages, with which it came into a direct or indirect contact, due to the social, political, cultural and scientific

relations. Nevertheless, the most productive remain the internal means of enriching the vocabulary, because with their help can be realized a series of new words starting from the old words already existing in the language, using the processes such as *derivation*, *composition* and *conversion*. So, the internal processes of enriching the vocabulary are intended to form new words by using their own resources, already existing in the language.

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